



NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS THEATRE

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Fall 1990

At Johnson County Community College . . .

Overland Park Hosts 1991 Convention, AACT/FEST

Plans are underway for "Come To The Edge," the 1991 AKT convention and AACT/FEST, March 8-10, 1991. This year's convention will be held in the brand new, state-of-the-art Cultural Education Center (CEC) on the campus of Johnson County Community College, Overland Park.

The \$23 million CEC boasts Yardley Hall, a 1,400-seat theatre which will be used for the state AACT/FEST competition, and again in June for the national AACT/FEST. In addition, the CEC has a 400-seat little theatre, a 55-seat recital hall, a "black box" academic theatre space, an art gallery and a visitor's center.

This year's convention is not sponsored by one theatre company per se; rather, representatives of the Johnson County-area community, educational and professional theatres and sponsoring the convention. Convention chair is **Philip Kinen**, AKT's Secondary School Theatre Division chair, artistic director for Johnson County's **Theatre in Shawnee Mission Park** and drama instructor at Pioneer Trail Junior High in Olathe. He was also last year's convention chair at Manhattan.

"I'm excited about being convention chair again this year," Kinen said. "I have a better knowledge of how a convention is run, and it makes it a lot easier to be on home turf."



Cultural Education Center - Johnson County Community College
1991 AKT Convention/AACT/FEST Site

The theme of this year's convention is "Come To The Edge," based on a poem by Christopher Hogue:

"Apollinaire said
'Come to the edge.'
'It's too high.'
'Come to the edge.'
'We might fall.'"

'Come to the edge.'
And they came
And he pushed them
And they flew!"

Every year, AKT hears of various projects that Kansas theatres undertake in order to expand themselves. This year's convention is structured so that more theatre people will feel challenged—challenged to take a look at their own programs and what they can do to stretch and grow and increase the quality of their programs.

"One of the things that we are attempting to do with this year's convention is to give it a more universal appeal," Kinen said. "We have five different divisions, and they all have separate needs. In the past, we have catered our workshops to those individual needs. However, we also share common problems. This year, the convention will feature open panel discussions covering topics that are of major concern to all people involved in theatre."

Topics planned for discussion (at press time) include: Working With the Media; Improving and Renovating Your Theatre Facilities, and Producing Risky Plays. Each panel will have members from the different divisions so that all areas of theatre can be covered.

(Continued on page 2)

Congress Reauthorizes NEA for Three Years!

In the waning hours of the 101st Congress, the National Endowment for the Arts was reauthorized without content restrictions and funded at \$175 million for FY91.

It is clear that the advocacy efforts of the arts community succeeded. Congress and the American public have affirmed our position that decisions of obscenity should rest with the courts. At the same time, there are provisions in the final legislation that are problematic.

Here is a quick glance at the key provisions of the bill:

- 3 year reauthorization
- Language on blasphemy, such as that proposed by Senator Helms, eliminated
- Obscenity decisions to remain in the courts; statute of limitations for filing suit set at 7 years
- Sanctions established to require repayment in the event that obscenity convictions are upheld and grant monies are proven to be involved
- Gradual increase in funding to the states, with funding to rise from current 20% to 27.5% in basic operating grants by FY93
- Language requiring the Arts Endowment Chair to ensure that artistic excellence and merit are the criteria by which applications are judged and that all grants take into consideration "general standards of decency and respect for the diverse beliefs and values of the American public"
- Changes in the grant application procedure which affect funding disbursement and require detailed descriptions of proposed projects
- Panel procedure changes, including a provision which attempts to resolve conflict of interest charges
- All funding recommendations made by the National Council on the Arts
- Establishment of two new program initiatives in the areas of education and access

The support of our basic message on obscenity was overwhelming. Thanks are in order for the many Senators and Members of Congress that defended the NEA during this critical time. Please let your individual legislators know that you appreciate their hard work and effort.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED YOUR 1991 MEMBERSHIP CARD YET?

If not, could it be that you haven't sent in your renewal application? Show your support for theatre in Kansas! Send in the membership application on page 8 with your check TODAY!

Convention, cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

Another universal panel discussion will center around playwriting. A planning forum is scheduled to begin the development of original works by Kansans. This will be headed by AKT's Professional Division chair, **Repha Buckman**, who will discuss what is presently being done in Kansas to promote playwriting and what else can be done to further promote the art. The forum will conclude with cutting presentations of three original plays that have been written in the past year.

A Saturday luncheon workshop will feature Nancy Caplin, marketing director for the Kansas University Concert Series. Based on her experiences, Nancy will present new and innovative ways a theatre group can promote its own program.

Other workshops centering on special needs of divisions will include an update on the recent Drama/Theatre Curriculum Guide written by an AKT committee headed by **Dr. Jeanne Klein**, Children's Theatre Division chair. College professors will meet for a syllabus swap. A media specialist will present the wide variety of things which can be done with computers, video equipment and slides in theatre.

Several popular aspects of last year's Manhattan convention will be retained in the 1991 version. One of these is the idea of having two division meetings. The first will take place late Friday afternoon to open the convention. Present plans call for division members gathering for a buffet dinner and a chance to get reacquainted, and catching up on what has transpired over the past year. A general

business meeting will follow, presided over by AKT president **John Hunter**, who will update members on the progress of AKT during the past year. The second division meeting is scheduled for Sunday morning, when division members may plan goals for the upcoming year.

Another carry-over which proved to be popular at Manhattan is the provision of space for theatre companies to set up displays regarding their theatres. The "Class AKT" table will also be available with new merchandise for members to purchase memorabilia.

The major highlight of the year, of course, will be the American Association of Community Theatres' Festival, otherwise known as AACT/FEST. Up to seven Kansas community theatres will perform one-act plays, or one-hour cuttings of major plays, for adjudication. The winner will be recognized at the Sunday awards banquet and will go on to represent the state in regional competition.

This year's AACT/FEST chair is **Glendora Davis**, an actress from Johnson County and a board member of the Olathe Community Theatre Association. "We are all so excited to be hosting the state AACT/FEST this year, especially in the new CEC facility," Davis said. "Johnson County has an abundance of theatre, and we are proud to be able to of-

fer other Kansas theatres the opportunity to share their work with us."

Any community theatre wishing to receive an entry packet for the AACT/FEST should contact Davis at 480 Lakeshore Drive West, Lake Quivira, KS 66206, or call 913-631-9406.

Special hotel arrangements have been made with the Overland Park Marriott, 10800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66210. The hotel is easily accessible from the campus and is located in the hub of downtown Overland Park. Many fine restaurants and shopping areas surround both the hotel and the campus. The convention's afterglows will all take place at the Marriott.

Housing arrangements must be made separately from the convention registration. To reserve a room, contact the Marriott at 913-451-8000. A special convention rate of **\$54.00 per night** is being charged for either a single or double room. (Normal rate for the Marriott is \$134.00 for a double room.) **Reservations should be in by February 22, 1991.**

The registration fee—which includes admission to all convention meetings, forums, workshops, afterglows, seven AACT/FEST productions, a supper, luncheon buffet, and awards banquet—is **\$90.00**. **Cutoff date for pre-registration is March 4.**

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

A Definition:

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES is an aesthetic-driven, live performance which includes elements relevant to the child. Although **THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES** can amaze, challenge, inform and empower young people by providing access to the humanizing effect of theatre, the priority is on the creation of a work of art.

Standards:

The best THEATRES FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES:

- Have a clear artistic mission;
- Produce a body of work consistent with that mission;
- Provide an environment where artists can create and support that environment with sufficient resources;
- Engage in responsible dialogue with their chosen audience; and
- Create effective and cohesive theatre which includes all the elements of theatre art.

IF YOUR AKT MEMBERSHIP IS VALUABLE TO YOU...

TELL A FRIEND

(Invite him or her to join us as well. We'll all benefit!)

Dear Members,

Workhorses!! Every last one of them. That's the only way I can describe your division heads. If anyone were to ask you what has AKT done for you lately, ask them if they have a half-hour or more to hear you out:

- State-wide community theatre workshops.
- A state-wide theatre festival for small colleges and universities and junior colleges.
- A state-wide playwriting competition that we hope will lead to the first published anthology of plays written by Kansas playwrights.
- Completion of the Kansas Drama/Theatre guidelines for curriculum planning and program development and resource manual now being distributed by the Department of Education.
- Preparation for our state AACT/Fest in March and the National AACT/Fest scheduled for June.

Need I say more?

The last important point to mention here is that most, if not all, of these activities are being fully funded in some way. It is one of my personal goals as your President to keep this organization running in the black. With an increase in membership and tight fiscal controls, this should prove to be a very successful year for AKT.

The key to continued success is the quality and participation of our membership. Our activities are not created for the sake of keeping division heads busy, they're done for you. We need an active membership - we need you! If that sounds a bit like a commercial, so be it. We all suffer from the same problems: over extended, over committed, not enough time

and not enough energy left at the end of the day. Consequently, we are all being more selective about what we commit to. We all recognize that we are coming into even more difficult times. We face possible cutbacks in funding from corporate and state sources, and rising cost in gasoline which can drastically affect travel budgets. The list goes on, but it is not justification to bring this organization to a halt. It's our impetus to forge ahead, to identify attainable goals and to diversify our funding through creative financing measures. This is not a time to stop, it's a time to step forward and play a leadership role. Join us in our effort and... bring along a friend.

John Hunter

Contributors

Thanks to the following members who have demonstrated their support for AKT by becoming Contributing Members:

FRIENDS

Twink Lynch
Topeka

Charley Oldfather
Lawrence

CONTRIBUTORS

Rick Tyler
McPherson

Philip John Kinen
Lenexa

Warren Deckert
Pawnee Rock

For information concerning how you can become a Contributing Member, contact the AKT Central Office at 316-685-9306.

U/C Division Offers Highly Successful Workshop

AKT's University/College Division presented a "first in a long time" College Theatre Festival at Hutchinson Community College, Saturday, Nov. 10. Participants and spectators enjoyed six productions offered by member theatres and the adjudications which followed, along with an acting workshop and an informal "networking" dinner to close out the day's activities.

"The focus of the festival was to share productions, encourage acting students, and communicate the concerns and needs of theatre faculty and students in the state," said Diane DeFranco-Kling, U/C Division Chair, who coordinated the event, along with hosts Bill Brewer and Amelia Hensley of HCC, and committee members Rick Tyler and Bob Amsden. "We hoped that this would be particularly beneficial to our smaller private colleges and community colleges in the central and western regions of Kansas.

"These schools—most of which have only a one-or two-person department—provide their communities with quality productions utilizing limited resources and manpower, and act as theatre resources for their respective locations.

"Unlike their counterparts at the regent schools," she continued, "very few of these members are able to participate in regional or national theatre festivals because of the expense and time demands; yet, it is important that their students are exposed to different styles and perspectives in productions. We hope this festival provides that."



Dennis Denning, center, makes a point during adjudication of a production during the AKT-sponsored "College Theatre Festival 1990" at Hutchinson Community College, November 10. Joining him as adjudicators were John C. Hunter, left, and Norman J. Fedder. Six member theatres presented one-act plays or cuttings during the all-day, "first in a long time" festival developed by AKT's University/College Division.

Participants included Sterling College, with Stephen Sondheim's "Into The Woods," directed by Gordon Kling; Bethany College, with "Am I Blue," by Beth Henley, directed by Robert Amsden; Kansas State University, with Aurand Harris' "The Arkansas Bear," directed by Theresa Simpson; Fort Hays State University, with "The Hairy Falsetto," by Jerome Irving Rodale, directed by Stephen Shapiro; Cloud County Community College, with "Wings," by Arthur Kopit, directed by Susan Sutton; and host Hutchinson Community College, with "Present Tense," by John McNamara, directed by Bill Brewer.

Following lunch, all participants were invited to participate in an acting

workshop presented by Allyson Moon of Southwestern College.

Adjudicators for the plays included Norman J. Fedder, University Distinguished Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at KSU and member of AKT's Kansas Theatre Hall of Fame; John C. Hunter, AKT president and professor of Theatre/Chairman of Art & Fine Arts at Washburn University of Topeka; and Dennis Denning, former chairman of the Fine Arts Division of Marymount College, Salina.

Based on the apparent success of the festival, plans are being developed to continue the program, possibly as a "draw" for the "off-AACT/FEST-year" conventions.

Nominees Sought For 1991 Convention Awards

Highlight of any AKT convention is the opportunity to recognize persons or organizations within the state who have supported theatre in Kansas by nominating them for one of the AKT awards presented at the annual convention. Any AKT member in good standing can nominate a candidate for the following awards:

KANSAS THEATRE HALL OF FAME

"This award shall be given for extraordinary work and commitment to the theatre over an extended period of time; the person should be from Kansas or have worked in Kansas for an extended period of time."

The Hall of Fame Award is the highest honor AKT bestows. It was established in 1980 with the induction of Karl Bruder, Jed Davis, Irene Vickers Baker, Bob Gard and Peggy Green. Since that time, the following individuals have been added: George Murdock and Mary Jane Teall (1981), William Gibson (1983), the late William Inge (1984), Charles Kephart and Gladys Six (1985), Bruce and Veda Rogers (1986), Twink Lynch (1987), Richard Welsbacher and Charles Lown (1988), and Norman Fedder (1990).

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE

"This award shall be given for an achievement of state, regional or national significance; may be short-term or long-term in nature."

Last year's winner included the late Margaret Goheen, artistic director of the

William Inge Festival, and the Salina Theatre Guild.

STEVEN B. CATHEY AWARD

"This award shall be given to business leaders or organizations who exhibit the same breadth of vision as Steven B. Cathey of Southwestern Bell in their endeavors to bring business and the arts together in Kansas."

Established in 1987 in honor of the late Steven B. Cathey of Southwestern Bell Telephone, who was instrumental in creating their Kansas Arts Excellence Program, this award replaces the old 'Kansas Business and Theatre Awards' which were given to businesses that "supported theatre in Kansas." Last year's awards were presented to Emery Fager, president of the board, Commerce Bank & Trust Co., Topeka; Jim Callaway, president, Kansas Division, Southwestern Bell Telephone, Topeka; and The Bank of the Southwest, Dodge City.

AWARD OF MERIT

"This award shall be given for an achievement, short-term in nature, and primarily local in impact."

Last year's recipients were the mayor and city council of Topeka for their support of the new Topeka Performing Arts Center.

LEGISLATOR AWARD

A new category in 1989, the Legislator Award recognizes those members of branches of the state or federal legislature who demonstrate outstanding support

for theatre and the arts, as documented by their voting records or other concrete evidence. (Attendance at plays alone is not sufficient for this award.)

No award was made in 1990, but in 1989, it was presented to state senator Audrey Langworthy, Prairie Village, for her sponsorship of the Bi-State Cultural and Recreational Bill and for her support of the development of "Two Trails West," a pageant drama which will highlight the important role of Johnson County, Kansas, in the development of the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails.

Nomination of outstanding high school teachers and administrators for special awards will also be solicited through mailings to each of the high schools within the state. These nomination forms should be available shortly.

Nominations are currently being sought for this year's awards. If you have a candidate to submit, contact Rick Tyler at McPherson College. Phone 316-241-0731.

Some Questions:

The September 1990 issue of Communications Briefings contained the following piece which can prove useful to AKT member theatres:

Someone in your organization should be responsible for making sure that you're comfortable with the answers to the following questions:

- How does your staff answer the phone?
- How do you handle visitors?
- Are signs in your building effective?

Kansas Creative Dramatic Specialists Listed

The following is a list of creative drama specialists and children's theatre directors in the state of Kansas. Should your organization need information, in-service or pre-service teacher training, local or regional workshops, program consultants, or directors, contact the following persons for their availability, honoraria, and energy on an individual basis.

Emporia:

Dept. of Speech & Theatre
Emporia State University
1200 Commerical
Emporia, KS 66801
(316) 343-5707

Kansas City area:

Sheryl Bryant & Wendy Harms
Theatre for Young America*
7204 W. 80th
Overland Park, KS 66204
(913) 648-4600

Elizabeth Cress-Sweet
12615 Oakmont Drive
Kansas City, MO 64145
(816) 942-4593

Lawrence:

Ric Averill
Seem-To-Be-Players*
P.O. Box 1601
Lawrence, KS 66046
(913) 843-5067

Dr. Jeanne Klein
KU-Theatre for Young People
Dept. of Theatre & Film
317 Murphy Hall
University of Kansas
Lawrence, KS 66045
(913) 864-4110

Laurie VanderPol-Hosek
R.R. 6, Box 349
Lawrence, KS 66044
(913) 841-1680

Topeka:

Jo Huseman
Helen Hocker Theatre
Topeka Parks and Recreation
Room 259, City Hall
Topeka, KS 66603
(913) 295-3838

Annette Klein
(Topeka Public Schools & Washburn University)
1542 Glendale
Topeka, KS 66604

Wichita:

Monica Flynn
Wichita Children's Theatre*
Box 781051
Wichita, KS 67278-1051
(316) 262-2282

*Children's companies available for touring through Kansas Arts Commission Touring Program.

**Artists-in-Residence available through Kansas Arts Commission.

Kansas Thespians Plan Convention

The Kansas Thespian Society, an honor organization for high school theatre students, will be holding its annual conference December 7-8, 1990, at Manhattan High School. There will be workshops and a show on Friday; workshops, shows, and scholarships auditions Saturday.

Workshop presenters at this year's conference will include Max Culver, Adhesives in Theatre Design Lab; Paul Mackovak, Jazz Dance, University of Miami; Terry McGonigle, Puppets, Gordon College; Jeanne Klein, Children's Theatre, University of Kansas; Rick Tyler, Scene Design, McPherson College; equity membership, state combat, auditioning, improvisation and many more.

We will have an all-state cast show this year. It will be directed by Jack Wright, Director/University Theatre, University of Kansas.

tober.

AKT Memberships Awarded To Students

AKT Organizational members who have renewed for 1991 have already become aware of a new policy adopted by the Board of Directors at the summer meeting which has the potential to be very important in the future: each Organizational renewal carries with it the option to select up to three students active in that organization to receive a complimentary AKT membership for 1991.

"Students are AKT's legacy," said John A. Gedraitis, executive director. "Anything that we can do now to make theatre a pleasant, rewarding experience for them will pay off big dividends in the future, both for AKT and for theatre arts in general."

Along with the traditional membership card and wall certificate, Organizational members now also receive a form listing spaces for the names of their three nominees. These complimentary members will receive all of the privileges of AKT membership: receipt of the MARQUEE; free or discounted admission to some AKT-member theatres across the state; access to the script library; and an invitation to the convention and AACT/FEST in Kansas City in March.

The complimentary members will be assigned to the sponsoring theatre's division (i.e., students nominated by community theatres will be listed in the Community Theatre Division; college students in University/College Division, etc.) and will be eligible to participate in any division activities as well.

The new category does not replace the "Student" membership which AKT has maintained since it was chartered. Students may still join for a \$10 annual fee and receive all of the benefits of membership.

Questions concerning the new policy should be addressed to the AKT Central Office, 949 Parklane, #332, Wichita, KS 67218, or phone 316-685-9306.

Grant Presented To Washburn U Theatre

The Regents of Washburn University of Topeka, at their October meeting, accepted the "Irving and Beth S. Sheffel Art and Theatre Creative Activities Fund," a \$50,000 open-ended endowed scholarship to support activities within the art and theatre departments, according to a by-lined article in the Topeka Capital-Journal, Oct. 11.

According to the article, the Sheffels... "established the fund in recognition of the contributions John Hunter, chairman of the Department of Art and Theatre Arts, has made to the community." Hunter currently serves as president of AKT.

Funded activities could include such items as guest artists, professional workshops, travel opportunities for students or faculty or special performances. The choice of activities will be determined by a committee appointed by the art and theatre arts department.

Definition of Fine Arts Requirements for High School Graduation

During the past decade many states and school districts have added one or more units in the fine arts to their requirements for high school graduation. This recognition of the importance of the fine arts in the education of all students is important and desirable. As pleased as these organizations have been by the large increase in the number of school districts and states acknowledging the importance of the fine arts in this way, these associations have in some instances been disturbed by the invalid interpretation of what subjects constitute the fine arts. The requirement means little if activities such as foreign language, vocational education, computers, forensics, practical arts, humanities, speech and applied arts are considered in fulfilling it. Therefore, the following statement defining the areas that should be considered in meeting fine arts requirements has been developed to serve as a consensus statement by educators in the fine arts in America's schools.

"The performing and visual arts, generally referred to as the *fine arts*, are unique and important in the school curriculum.

"For purposes of developing this curricular area, we define the fine arts as consisting of visual arts, dance, music and theatre.

"Although certain of the language arts may fall within a broad definition of art, they receive sufficient attention in the school curriculum through their inclusion in language courses.

"All other courses, such as the practical arts, that include the word 'art' in their titles, serve different educational purposes, and they should not be considered as a part of the fine arts."

Adopted by:

- The National Association of Secondary School Principals
- The National Art Education Association
- Music Educators National Conference
- The National Dance Association
- The American Alliance for Theatre and Education

Spread the Word!

Invite a friend to
Join AKT - TODAY!!

Kansan Builds Successful NY Theatre Program

In 1981, the NEA provided funding for a project those of us working at Hutchinson Repertory Company called *A Festival of New Plays*. The Festival ran three years, bringing playwrights from all across the United States to Hutchinson to have their winning scripts produced and adjudicated. I was fortunate the first year to direct Kansan Bob Lawson's *Mishima* and adjudicate all the rest of the scripts for all three festivals.

Now, many of those winning scripts are available through the AKT script library. Scripts by Mary Roish, Steve Nelson, Jack Gilhooley, Cynthia Cooper, Sara Provost, Eric Nertz and Lisa Merkel are among some I remember best. In fact, I even flew to Colorado Springs for the opening of *Shirley Basin* by Jack Gilhooley when it opened there a couple of years later. And Bob Lawson's *Mishima* took five awards at the FACT Festival here in Kansas in 1983. I encourage you to read the scripts and to produce them. They are all worthy of other audiences and present a wide range of American Theatre.

Jeff Corrick, who initiated this project, and who was well-known to members of

AKT, left Kansas to do new plays in New York. He has had great success there and runs The Wings Theatre Company, Inc. Over the past four years, Wings produced over thirty new plays by American Playwrights. In the shrinking arena of New York's Off-Off Broadway theatre, it is a record to be proud of.

Robert Anderson has said, "Any play that gets produced today is a miracle play." And Kansan Jeff Corrick is helping that miracle along. He has recently signed a new lease for ten years for a performance space in the Archive, a beautiful Romanesque revival structure on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village. This space, in a landmark building, will be twice the size of their former location at the American Renaissance Theatre with a larger stage, spacious lobbies, improved administrative and shop areas in short, an Off-Off Broadway company's dream come true.

Wings could use our help. To bring this dream to fruition, funds are being raised for new seating, lighting and sound equipment, and stage fixtures, as well as construction of interior walls. Your tax-deductible donations will make possible a place for season after season of new American plays and musicals.

Jeff gave much to theatre in Kansas for years and continues to make us proud of him in New York. If you are in a position to help out - in a small way or a large one - it would truly be appreciated. Send your contributions to:

Jeff Corrick, Artistic Director
The Wings Theatre Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 932
New York, New York 10009-0932

Repha Buckman
Professional Division Chair

Try A Letter:

The June 1990 issue of Communications Briefings contained the following piece originally printed in The Chronicle of Philanthropy. It can prove useful to AKT member theatres as well.

Has your organization ever used a letters-to-the-editor campaign to recruit volunteers or members? If not, consider the success of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Amarillo, Texas.

The organization, seeking more little sisters, asked the younger females to write letters to the local paper telling how they profited from the program.

The charity held a contest to determine the best letter and awarded the winner a dinner for two. An Amarillo daily ran all 10 of the letters submitted to the contest.

The idea can be adapted to other situations. In fact, the Texas charity plans to use the idea again to recognize its top volunteers.

Theatre/Schools Activities Planned

Dear Drama/Theatre Educators and Advocates,

This March, 1991, Kansas will celebrate its second THEATRE IN THE SCHOOLS month. This celebration is part of a national celebration sponsored by the American Alliance for Theatre And Education to recognize the importance of drama/theatre activities in the schools. Last year, actor Edward Asner was our honorary state chair and he has been approached again this year to make public service announcements that can run on TV and radio to help people become aware of our celebration.

Last year, Kansas had one of the most active state celebrations and we would like to boast of even more activities this year. If you have a drama/theatre activity planned in March, may we please know about it so that we can have a good statewide record? Also, will you please help get the resolution passed in as many cities and schools as possible across the state?

If you need ideas on ways to celebrate, here are some that were done in Kansas last year: posters, displays, wearing of show T-shirts, field trips to theatres, special drama classes, government proclamations, newspaper articles, play contests, putting the celebration logo on theatre programs. Anything that heightens awareness of drama/theatre in the schools or increases drama/theatre activities in the schools is appropriate.

If you would be willing to serve on a statewide committee for this project, please write Sheryl Bryant, state chairperson, at THEATRE FOR YOUNG AMERICA, 7204 W. 80, Overland Park, KS 66204. I also have ideas lists and sheets of the celebration logo I can mail to you. Please send March activities listings to me at this address as well.

Sheryl Bryant
State Chairperson

Woodley Press, AKT Collaborate In Kansas Playwright's Competition

In an effort to identify and honor Kansas Playwrights, the Woodley Press (Washburn University) and the Association of Kansas Theatre, in their first cooperative enterprise, are sponsoring the Sixth Annual Robert E. Gross Competition.

The goal is to broaden the visibility of Kansas playwrights through publication, providing scripts of exceptional quality and originality with the opportunity for additional possible production.

Contest Coordinator for both organizations is **Repha Buckman**, Drama Editor for Woodley Press and Chair of the Pro-

fessional Division for AKT, who will also serve as editor for the book. It is an exciting project for me. I am delighted that these two diverse groups are working together to make this publication possible. It is our hope that we will be able to publish, not only the winning script, but an anthology of plays by combining our resources. We want to identify, reward and make accessible the finest of plays produced in Kansas over the last ten years.

Additional questions, should be addressed to: Repha Buckman, Box 35, Rt 1, Sterling, KS 67579, (316) 278-3248.

PLAYWRITING COMPETITION

Sixth Annual Robert E. Gross Manuscript Competition

Deadline: December 31, 1990

Woodley Press at Washburn University and the Association of Kansas Theatre will jointly sponsor a contest for original scripts. The winning manuscript will be published by Woodley Press in 1991. The first place playwright will receive \$100.00 from a fund established by the Robert E. Gross family.

Guidelines

1. Plays must have been successfully produced within the last ten years.
2. Plays must be full length for mature audiences.
3. Plays must be typed in correct format. Quality computer printouts are accepted.
4. Plays may not have been published anywhere else.
5. Playwright must be former or present resident of Kansas.
6. A \$10.00 reading fee should accompany the entry. Make checks payable to Woodley Press.
7. Please include documentation of production credits.
8. Enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for return of entry.
9. The title and author's name should appear in a cover letter. The playwright's name should not appear on the MS itself.

Finalists in the competition will be judged by an independent out-of-state playwright.

Winners will be honored at the Association of Kansas Theatre Convention March 8, 9, 10, 1991 in Kansas City.

Winning scripts will receive free advertisement in AKT's Marquee for a year and AKT will encourage member theatres to produce said plays.

Send Entries to:

Woodley Press-Robert E. Gross Contest
Box 35, Route 1
Sterling, Kansas 67579

Have You Renewed For 1991?

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Memberships are valid
September 1 to August 31
 of each year
 Make check payable to "AKT"

Categories of Membership

Regular	\$20
Student/Senior	\$10
Small (Budget: Under \$10,000/yr.)	\$50
Large (Budget: Over \$10,000/yr)	\$90

Contributing

Contributors	\$50- \$99
Friends	\$100- \$249
Donors	\$250- \$499
Sponsors	\$500- \$999
Patrons	\$1000- \$4999
Benefactors	\$5000 and up

VISA/MASTERCARD Circle One

Expiration Date _____

Division Affiliation (check up to two)

- ☐ Children's Theatre
☐ Community Theatre
☐ Professional Theatre
☐ Secondary School Theatre
☐ University/College Theatre

Mail this application with your check to:

AKT Central Office
949 Parklane, Suite 332
Wichita, Kansas 67218
(316) 685-9306

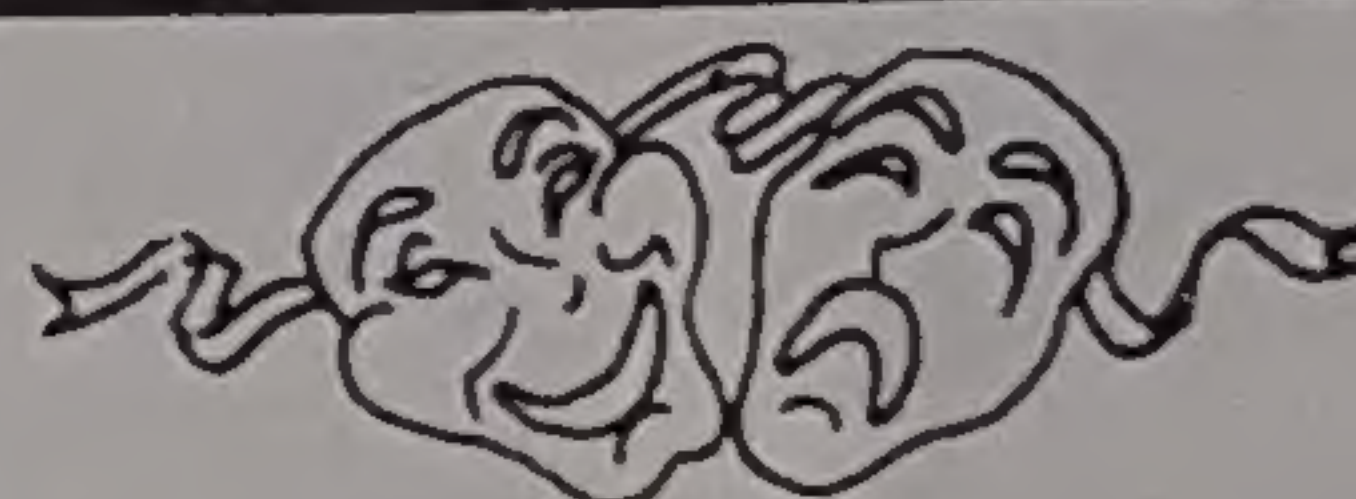
K-12 Curriculum Guide Offered

The Kansas K-12 Drama/Theatre Curriculum Guide, written and adopted by AKT, is now in print and available for distribution and constant use in schools and community theatres! Copies have been mailed to all 304 superintendents in Kansas public school districts and to many AKT members involved in K-12 education. If you have not already received a personal copy or you would like to own and distribute additional copies throughout your school district and local community, obtain free copies from:

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This comprehensive guide and resource manual contains everything you'd ever want to know about drama/theatre education... and more!: rationales to advocate the inclusion of drama/theatre in local school curricula; a status report of theatre education in Kansas; short and long versions of five Kansas drama/theatre outcomes (goals) for K-12 students; 60 pages of ideas for evaluation and assessment of student progress; criteria (standards) for scheduling, facilities, teaching staff, and national certification standards (ammunition to show your local school boards and superintendents); suggested plays to be performed by and for children and young people; annotated bibliography of books, play publishers, touring companies, professional organizations, and journals; and how to start programs from scratch!

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